

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are extremely disappointed that H.R. 1473, the long-term continuing resolution for fiscal year 2011, prohibits the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from implementing Secretarial Order 3310, also known as the "wild lands policy," for the remainder of the fiscal year. Without the wild lands policy, many of our nation's pristine wild and public lands remain at risk. The policy is popular with the millions of Americans who are committed to the preservation of our wilderness heritage and we strongly support it.

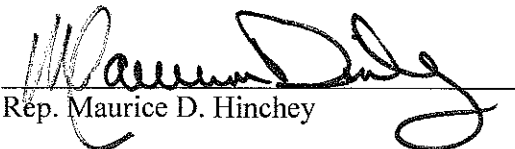
We applauded the Department of Interior for overturning the legally flawed decision by former Secretary Gail Norton that barred the BLM from identifying and protecting BLM lands possessing wilderness characteristics as "wilderness study areas." The so-called "Norton Policy" was an abdication of the Department's legal obligations under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as well as other statutes, to inventory and manage public lands with wilderness characteristics. In addition, it was an unprecedented departure from a long history of agency management of wild lands which preserved Congress' ability to designate lands as wilderness.

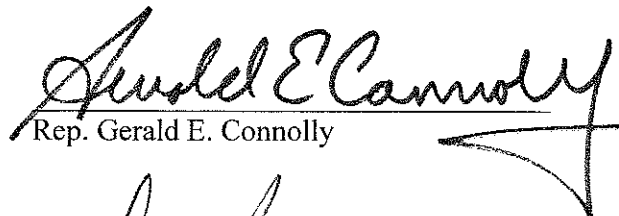
The Interior Department's 2010 wild lands policy is a reasonable, well-grounded approach that would remedy the many problems caused by the Norton Policy, and it is entirely consistent with governing federal law and long-standing administrative practice. It would facilitate public participation, the restoration of balance to our public lands management policies and protect cherished natural icons from development.

However, despite the passage of H.R. 1473, the BLM is still legally obligated under FLPMA to manage the wilderness resource as one of several multiple uses. As such, we strongly urge you to ensure that the Department and the BLM follow these requirements. Additionally, we hope that your administration will firmly oppose any future appropriations riders or bills that would restrict the Interior Department's ability to identify and protect public lands with wilderness characteristics.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey

  
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly

  
Rep. Diana DeGette

  
Rep. Martin Heinrich

Ben A. Lynn

Hoyd Doggett

Jackie Speier

Steen Cohen

John W. Oliver

Mike Murphy

Rush Holt

Bruce Bickel

Zoe Lofy

Mazie Hirono

Ernest Den

Earl Blumenauer

Jim Cant

Rail M. Hujarba

Betty McCallum

Michael M. Horda

Hank Green

Sam Lane

Edith E. Cummings

David Price

Ken A. Weyman

George Miller

Harold L. Bann

Joe E. Senan

Lori Capps

Barbara Lee

Bill Russell Jr

Jan Schultz

Charles B. Rangel

Connie Brown

Julie

Arnold Nadler

Cardyn B. M.oney

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Figure 1 is a horizontal timeline illustrating the study period and data collection. The timeline spans from 1997 to 2012. The 'Study' period is indicated by a solid line, and the 'Data' period is indicated by a dashed line. The timeline is divided into two main sections: 'Study' and 'Data'.

[illegible]

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	22%
25-34	28%
35-44	18%
45-54	15%
55-64	12%
65-74	8%
75-84	5%
85+	2%

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Age Group	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
18-24	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
25-34	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
35-44	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
45-54	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
55-64	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
65-74	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
75+	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0